

David Dunlap

Curated by Scott & Tyson Reeder

November 12, 2009 – January 9, 2010

(Opening reception Thursday, November 12, 6:00 – 8:00pm)

“Experiencing a room full of Dunlap’s delicately rendered drawings and obsessively reworked passages of text is like following a well-worn path up an old wooden staircase. You feel at the same time comforted and humbled; many other people have gone this way before.”

—Scott & Tyson Reeder

Tent for Martin Luther King Jr.
Part of Vehicle for Marriage
1996 Volvo Sedan



The installations of Iowa City-based artist, David Dunlap provide an enchanting insight into both his life and artistic process, though it is nearly impossible to distinguish the two. His materials of choice come from the everyday – clothes, notebooks, calendars, automobiles, even paint made from mixing walnuts and buckets of water. Yet, while the base components may imply simplicity, they are far from easy to digest. Containing the recordings of thoughts and memories like daily journal entries or logbooks, the work provokes a cryptic sense of voyeurism. Dunlap employs an elaborate and deeply personal symbology in all of his work, linking the seemingly mundane and the profound, the personal and the cultural, the historical and the present. An intimate mythology is generated through his unique lexicon used for documenting

his life. Recurring symbols like Martin Luther King, swastikas, dates and flags are found throughout his work, constantly being reworked within new contexts of his own personal documentation. However, Dunlap does not stake sole claim on the work; as with many of the symbols used, all of his work is open to interpretation, re-definition and re-appropriation. Through the resulting installation the viewer is led to question their initial conceptions of these “stock” images, underlining the obstructiveness of readymade thought and ideas.

On view at CUE Art Foundation, Dunlap’s first solo show in New York, will be a large-scale installation that will include many of his monthly calendars that he has created since the 1980’s and a cabin constructed from bookcases containing every book he has ever made since the 1970’s, all organized chronologically. Each piece is not just on display, but a component used to form a new whole, giving the works a life and purpose outside their own. This mirrors Dunlap’s previous installation of an “ark” that housed all of the books he had ever made (right), including a coffin that contained all of his unused notebooks which he had previously fabricated in bulk to mimic his favorite brand which had been discontinued. Covered in many of his trademark images, the ark also included a flag and a masthead. For Dunlap’s current installation, the structure of his cabin resembles another form that has been common in his drawings and paintings since 1996 – the “Moon Hotel.” A personal creation based loosely on a landmark of his birthplace, the Kansas City Power and Light Building, it symbolizes to the artist masculinity, power and rationality: a fitting image for the artist’s first solo exhibition in New York. Construction of a much larger version of his “Moon Hotel” was attempted in Dunlap’s backyard, but the local government forced him to tear it down. The result is an evocative journey for enlightenment, one in which the viewer muses on the the passing of time, and why and how we choose to remember events in our lives. Dunlap does not provide all the answers for the viewer, only his own path to finding them.



An ark made of all the books I have ever kept, 2009

(More, over)

For additional information, please contact Ryan Thomas, Programs Coordinator, CUE Art Foundation, 212-206-3583, or email ryan.thomas@cueartfoundation.org

Free catalogues available.

ARTIST’S BIO:

David Dunlap is a mixed-media artist, using a combination of sculpture, installation, text and performance throughout his artistic career. Dunlap received his BA from Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO and his MFA from Yale University, New Haven, CT. Dunlap received a National Endowment for the Arts Individual Artist’s Fellowship in 1989, National Endowment for the Arts (Rockefeller Foundation Regional Inter-Arts Award, and McKnight/Intermedia Arts Fellowship in 1994. He has held past exhibitions at Mills College Art Museum, Oakland, CA; Southeastern Center for Contemporary Arts, Winston-Salem, NC; Franklin Furnace, New York, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE; N.A.M.E. Gallery and the Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL; and Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA. David Dunlap currently lives in Iowa City and his exhibition at CUE marks his first solo show in New York.

About CUE:

CUE Art Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit forum for contemporary art and cultural exchange that provides opportunities and resources for under-recognized artists. We value the astonishing diversity of creativity that artists provide and the importance of their activity in the social context of the city.

CUE provides artists, students, scholars and art professionals resources at many stages of their careers and creative lives. Our programs include exhibitions, studio residencies, publications, professional development seminars, educational outreach, symposia, readings, concerts and performances. Since 2002, we have operated from our 4,500 square foot storefront venue in the heart of New York’s Chelsea Arts District.

CUE exhibiting artists are chosen by their peers and a rotating group of advisors and curators from across the country. This pluralistic process ensures that CUE consistently offers diverse viewpoints from multiple disciplines of artistic practice.

Simply put, we give artists their CUE to take center stage in the challenging world of art.

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